CLAIMS:

1.   A method of embedding a watermark in an information signal bit-stream, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream;

storing a first copy of the received portion in a first buffer;

watermarking a second copy of the received portion; storing the resulting watermarked signal in a second buffer;

performing a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by being watermarked; and

outputting the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, otherwise outputting the watermarked signal from the second buffer.

2.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said watermarking step comprises embedding a watermark in the second copy of the received portion by transcoding.

3.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information signal comprises at least one of a transport stream and a program stream.

4.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information signal bit-stream comprises a series of packets, the predetermined interval corresponding to the first buffer receiving an integral number of said packets.

5.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined interval is when a predetermined start code of the bit-stream is detected at a predetermined position within the first buffer.

6.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined interval corresponds to at least one of the buffers being filled by a respective stored signal.

7.   A computer program arranged to perform the method as claimed in claim 1.

8.   A record carrier comprising a computer program as claimed in claim7.

5   9.   A method of making available for downloading a computer program as claimed in claim7.

10.   A watermarked information signal formed according to the method as claimed in claim 1.

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11.   A record carrier comprising a watermarked information signal as claimed in claim10.

12.   An apparatus for embedding a watermark in an information signal bit-stream,
15   the apparatus comprising:

          a receiver for receiving a portion of an information signal bit-stream;

          a first buffer for storing a first copy of the received portion;

          a watermarker for watermarking a second copy of the received portion;

          a second buffer for storing the resulting watermarked signal;

20   a controller arranged to perform a check at predetermined intervals to determine if the bit-rate of the received portion has been changed by the watermarking process; and

          a multiplexer arranged to output the first copy of the received portion from the first buffer if the check determines the bit-rate has changed, and otherwise to output the
25   watermarked signal from the second buffer.